

Recreation and Community Enhancement Committee Meeting
8 February 2007
MINUTES

Members Present

Hon. Anita W. Speidel, Chairwoman
Hon. Ellen W. Richardson
Hon. David Ross

Mr. Gene Wayne Taylor
Mr. Jack Van Dame

Mr. Robert Ritter, Town Manager
Mr. Edward Lewis, Police Chief

1. Call to Order.

Chairwoman Speidel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Agenda Adoption.

Mrs. Richardson motioned, seconded by Mr. Van Dame, to adopt the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Lights Around Island Nature Trail.

Police Chief Lewis explained that placing lights on the trail would encourage people to use the trail at night which is a safety concern. He recommended that the Island Nature Trail be closed at night like the other Town parks. Mr. Van Dame stated that the original intent of the trail was to keep it as 'natural' as possible and that the lights defeat that purpose.

Mr. Ritter suggested that lights be installed on Hallie Whealton Smith Drive in the near future, which would be discussed by the Public Works Committee. Chairwoman Speidel agreed that lights on the trail pose a safety issue as well as going against the original intent of keeping the trail as natural as possible.

4. Plan to Help Chincoteague High School Rehabilitate the Track.

Chairwoman Speidel stated that she and Mr. Ritter discussed possibly soliciting donations for the surface material and then using the Town's equipment to rebuild the track. Mrs. Richardson commented that the drainage issue needed to be addressed first. Chairwoman Speidel responded that she and Mr. Ritter will meet with Mr. Bull and Mr. Thornton of the School Board on February 9 regarding the drainage matter and the track rehab proposal.

5. Plan to Upgrade Playground Equipment at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Mr. Ritter explained that new equipment needs to be installed at the park since the current equipment is outdated and not ADA-compliant. He stated that approximately \$30,000 could be placed in the FY 2008 budget toward upgrading the equipment and that grants may also be available to help with the funding. Chairwoman Speidel asked Mr. Ritter to research the cost of replacing the equipment as well as grant availability.

6. Committee Member Comments.

- Chairwoman Speidel asked Mr. Ritter to contact the Army Corps of Engineers regarding extending the Island Nature Trail across Hallie Whealton Smith Drive. She

also recommended that the Committee visit the site in order to make suggestions as to how the trail should go through the property.

- Mr. Taylor recommended that a floating dock be placed at the proposed Kayak Park located on the property across from the high school. Mr. Ross recommended that parking be considered before a dock is placed there. Mr. Van Dame suggested that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to establish a plan for the property.

7. Adjournment.

Councilwoman Richardson moved, seconded by Mr. Van Dame, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.